RICE | INQUIRY
Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry

Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program (RUSP)
HONS 470
Fall 2019, Tues 6-7:15 PM, BRK 101

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Mary Purugganan
Senior Lecturer, Wiess School of Natural Sciences
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Office hours by appointment
Office location: Hermann Brown (HBH) 002 (basement, access via Staircase "B" or elevator)
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TAs:

Autumn Horne
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Course Rationale and Description

The Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program (RUSP) is a two-semester, 1-credit undergraduate research program aimed at students interested in careers in academia and research. Junior and senior Rice students engage in a year-long research project and attend weekly seminars on topics of research and the academic life.

Program Objectives:

- To develop students' research and presentation skills
- To cultivate students' understanding of an academic career
- To teach students how to apply to post-graduate education (graduate or professional school) and nationally competitive fellowships.

All students in the program will have access to research and/or conference travel funding up to $1000 during the academic year.

Teaching Assistants

The graduate student TAs for RUSP will be involved in both fall and spring semesters. They have the following roles:

- Grading and providing feedback on assignments (written and oral presentations)
- Leading or co-leading selected class discussions
- Mentoring students with guidance and support in the course

It is our sincere hope that you will develop a strong mentor-mentee relationship with all three instructors as you prepare for the next phase of your research career.

Required Course Materials

No textbook is required. All class readings will be provided in Canvas.

Assessment

Due Date	*Assignment*	*% of Grade*
Sept 10	Research Plan	15
Sept 24	1st Post-Graduate Opportunity Identification	10
Oct 22	2nd Post-Graduate Opportunity Identification	10
Oct 8 & Nov 19	1st & 2nd Draft Application	30
Various	Cohort participation	20
Various	Class participation	15

Course Policies

Class Attendance and Participation
Class attendance is mandatory. Class discussions are major components of this course, so come to class and be prepared to express your thoughts, reading interpretations, and questions. Participation credit will be determined by attendance, being on time to class, and contributions to in-class discussions and activities.

Cohort Participation
Students will be divided into cohorts of four to five students. Each cohort meets four times a semester to engage in supportive and interdisciplinary work. The particular assignments and timing for each meeting will be presented in class. The purpose of these cohorts is to provide students with peer support, interdisciplinary engagement, and an in-depth consideration of the course material. The dates for cohort meetings are

- Tues, Sept 17 (in class)
- Sun, Oct 6 (outside of class)
- Sun, Nov 10 (outside of class)
- Sun, Nov 24 (outside of class)

Research Plan
Students will be required to submit a detailed research plan that includes project components, deadlines, and intended materials to be shared with RUSP colleagues. The research must be made in consultation with the faculty advisor and include a signed letter of endorsement from the advisor.

Post-Graduate Opportunity Identification
The assignment has two parts.

- In the first, students will be required to identify one post-graduate opportunity to which they will apply and explain the selection in paragraph form noting personal relevance, interest, and motivations.
- In the second part, students will submit a list of at least four fellowships or graduate school programs to which they are interested in applying. This list must include a short paragraph explaining the selection of each fellowship or school with explicit identification of faculty, research, and other motivations for applying for that particular opportunity.

Post-Graduate Application: Drafts 1 and 2
Students will be required to submit *one complete application* for either a fellowship or graduate school to the instructor, written first in draft form and then revised. A complete submission will include a personal statement, project proposal, and list of application requirements. In some instances, the personal statement and project proposal will be a combined submission depending on the requirements of the institution. A final grade will be given once the complete application is submitted and the feedback from the instructor has been incorporated. Effort in the first draft and student improvement on the final draft will be considered in the Post-Graduate Application grade.

The Center for Academic & Professional Communication
The Center for Academic & Professional Communication (CAPC) is located on the south mezzanine of Fondren Library. The Center provides writing consultants who may help you at any stage of the process of writing a paper or giving a presentation. To make an appointment, visit the Center or go to pwc.rice.edu.

Student Opportunity Center
As a student of Rice University, you now have access to the Student Opportunity Center, a centralized resource for Rice students to find experiential learning opportunities on- and off- campus. The SOC is a national database of research, funding, internships, conferences, and publishing opportunities. Your account is already established; just use your Rice email to log in: https://studentopportunitycenter.com/

Honor Code
All Rice University students are expected to abide by the Rice Honor Code (http://honor.rice.edu/).

Students With Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with course instructors during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.

RUSP Stipends

Each HONS 470 student is awarded up to $1000 to facilitate a research project or for professional development through conference attendance. Prior to spending, students must submit their request to Canvas Assignments for Dr. Purugganan's approval. *Allow 3-5 business days for approval. Once your request is approved, you may contact Abby Schuh in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry for disbursement/spending, as detailed below*.
Stipend must be spent by May 1, 2020, or have special permission granted for use over the summer.

Permitted Expenses & How to Pay/Seek Reimbursement
The following is a description of the three typical uses for the stipend. Follow the instructions for how to spend—*once your request has been approved*.

1. Conference attendance (includes registration and travel expenses)
    - Before the conference: As soon as you know details about your conference and travel plans, but no later than THREE weeks before travel, email Abby Schuh at as60@rice.edu to arrange a time to visit OURI to purchase plane tickets, hotel/lodging, conference registration, etc. with her purchasing card. She has set aside office hours on Tuesdays from 11 AM to 2 PM for this purpose. You will be granted a small cash advance for anticipated food and incidental expenses (remember, you cannot purchase alcohol!) If you do not have three weeks' notice or wish to book your travel yourself, you will need to save your receipts and be reimbursed AFTER you travel.
    - After the conference: ***You must submit all your receipts for reconciliation***. Receipts must be itemized so we can see what you spent the money on. A restaurant receipt, for example, will need to include the items purchased – not just the total. If you do not have receipts, you will be asked to return the cash advance to Rice. For details on cash advance instructions and reconciliation, email Abby Schuh at as60@rice.edu to begin the process.
2. Purchase of lab supplies
    - Email Abby at as60@rice.edu with the name of your lab and the fund/org number where the money should be transferred. The person running your lab will know these details.
3. Purchase of research equipment/supplies
    - Permitted items include books, transcription services, data recording equipment, specialty software, etc. Laptop computers and software such as Microsoft Office **do not** count as

supplies. The equipment must be necessary to your research and you may be required to return the item after the year has ended.

- Email Abby at as60@rice.edu and schedule a time to visit Fondren 404. You can make the purchase using a credit card and computer in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry.

Course Schedule (Subject to revision)

Date	Topics	Speaker(s)	Due
Aug 27	Introduction Distinction in Research Cohorts	• Dr. Purugganan • Dr. Liz Eich, Associate Director, Undergraduate Research and Inquiry	
Sept 3	Designing a Research Plan	Alix Macklin	
Sept 10	Pursuing and Selecting an Advanced Research Degree	• Dr. Purugganan • Autumn Horne • Alix Macklin	• Research Plan • Reading, Katie Langlin (2019) "What Matters in a PhD Adviser? Here's What the Research Says." *Science* online. DOI: 10.1126/science.caredit.aax.5934
Sept 17	In-Class Cohort Meeting		

Sept 24	Writing a Personal Statement and Project Proposal	• Dr. Elizabeth Festa, Associate Director, PWC
		• From the Center for Civic Leadership:
		  ○ Dr. Jessica Khalaf, Associate Director
		  ○ Fatima Raza, Assistant Director
			• 1st Post-Graduate Opportunity Identification
			• Reading, Drew C. Appleby and Karen M. Appleby (2006) "Kisses of Death in the Graduate School Application Process." *Teaching of Psychology* 33:1, 19-24.

Oct 1	Securing Letters of Recommendation	• Dr. Liz Eich, Associate Director, Undergraduate Research and Inquiry
		• From the Center for Civic Leadership:
		  ○ Dr. Danika Burgess Brown, Director, Curriculum and Fellowships
		  ○ Dr. Jessica Khalaf, Associate Director
		  ○ Fatima Raza, Assistant Director	

Oct 8	Managing Advisor Relationships	• Dr. Dereth Phillips, Lecturer, Inter-institutional Liaison for Undergraduate Research,	• 1st Draft of Application • Reading, Lewis Z. Schlosser and Charles J.

		Department of BioSciences • Dr. Chase L. Lesane-Brown, Director of Experiential Learning, School of Social Sciences and Lecturer, Department of Psychological Sciences	Gelso (2001) "Measuring the Working Alliance in Advisor-Advisee Relationships in Graduate School." *Journal of Counseling Psychology* 48:2, 157-61.
		Oct 15 No Class—Fall Break	
Oct 22	Fellowships & Admissions Processes	• Dr. Ashley Leeds, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science and Head of Graduate Admissions • Dr. Angel Marti, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Bioengineering, and Materials Science and Nanoengineering, Associate Chair for Graduate Admissions	2nd Post-Graduate Opportunity Identification
Oct 29	The Purpose of a University/Research	• Dr. Susan Keech McIntosh, Dean of Social Sciences (Interim) & Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Anthropology • Dr. Jorge Loyo, Associate Director of Education, Nanosystems Engineering Research Center for Nanotechnology-Enabled Water Treatment (NEWT) NSF Center	
Nov 5	Research Project Updates		
Nov 12	Life as a Faculty Member	• Dr. Sandra Parsons, Assistant Teaching Professor, Director of Pedagogy, Department of Psychological Sciences, Resident Advisor/Division Advisor, Will Rice College • Dr. Mike Gustin, Professor of BioSciences, College Magister, Lovett College	
Nov 19	Life as a Non-University Affiliated Researcher	Dr. David McClendon, Principal, January Advisors	2nd Draft of Application
		Nov 26 No Class—Happy Thanksgiving!	
Dec 3	Life as a Graduate Student	• Ryan Brown, Psychology • Marion Donald, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology • Melissa Traver, Biochemistry and Cell Biology • Kiana Wilkins, Sociology	